

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REU Program Announcement NSF 01-121

Question: What is the appropriate stipend for an REU student?

Answer: The level of stipend that a proposer asks for in either an REU Site or Supplement proposal depends on the level that he/she judges to be appropriate to recruit successfully from a diverse pool of talented students. The guideline figure offered in the revised program announcement is at least \$300 per week beyond other participant costs per student. This is a \$50 per week increase over the figure offered in REU announcements issued in 1993 and 1996. As always with REU, this is a guideline figure, neither a floor nor a ceiling. If a stipend of \$300 per week per student is proposed, then the total project cost per student may be about \$6,000, an increase over the \$5000 level stated in past announcements. Most REU projects include support for the student beyond the stipend in the form of assistance with living and/or travel expenses.

Question: For REU Supplements, what are the main changes in the program announcement revised in 2000 & 2001.

Answer: The primary change is to offer detailed, FastLane-compatible instructions on both how to apply for an REU supplement to an existing research award and how to imbed a request for REU students in a new or renewal proposal. In the past, the latter mechanism has not been used very extensively. The new program announcement makes it much clearer how to request an REU supplement at the time of proposal. Also, while REU supplements typically accommodate one or two students, the announcement notes that centers or large research efforts may request support for a number of students commensurate with the size and nature of the project.

Question: For REU Sites, what are the main changes in the program announcement revised in 2000 & 2001.

Answer: The program guidelines have changed very little in content. However, they look very different because they use NSF's new format for announcements. The REU Project Summary Form is gone. The only material accepted as supplementary documentation is the Optional Ethics Component and letters of commitment, as appropriate. It is important that you pay close attention to the instructions for proposal preparation, not only to comply with requirements, but also to supply the content that reviewers need in order to evaluate your proposal according to the review criteria given in the announcement.

Question: Are there any changes in the eligibility criteria for student participants supported under either an REU Supplement or Site award?

Answer: Not really, but the language describing "Eligible Student Participants" has been augmented to make it clear that community college students are eligible.